List of Claims:

1.   (Currently Amended) A method of interpreting a pronoun ~~reference~~, the method comprising ~~the steps of~~:

A)   recognizing a user input as containing a recognized pronoun ~~reference~~;

~~B)   associating a historical listing of noun references with an associated pronoun preference;~~

~~C~~B)   comparing said recognized pronoun ~~reference~~ to ~~at least one of said associated~~ pronoun information associating the historical noun references with pronoun number and gender information; ~~preferences; and~~

~~D~~C)   selecting one of said historical noun references ~~of said historical listing~~ as a function of said comparison between said recognized pronoun ~~reference~~ and ~~at least one of~~ said ~~associated~~ pronoun information ~~preferences.~~; and

D)   updating said pronoun information as a function of a successful selection of said historical noun reference.

2.   (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 1 wherein in ~~step B~~C), the selecting of one of said historical noun references ~~associated pronoun preference~~ is determined as a function of historical usage of a pronoun with respect to each of the noun reference_s_.

3.   (Original) A method according to claim 2 wherein said historical usage includes maintaining a count of correct usage events of a given pronoun with respect to a given noun reference.

4.   (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 1 wherein in ~~step D~~C), said historical noun references ~~is~~ are selected based upon a match of said recognized pronoun ~~reference~~ with at least one of said associated pronoun preferences.

5.   (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 1 wherein in ~~step C~~B), said recognized pronoun ~~reference~~ is compared to at least one of said associated historical noun references ~~pronoun preferences~~ in order from most recent to least recent in said historical listing.

6.   (Currently Amended) An apparatus for interpreting a pronoun ~~reference~~ comprising:

a recognizer adapted ~~for~~ to recognize~~ing~~ a user input as containing a recognized pronoun ~~reference~~;

a historical listing of noun references ~~with an~~ and associated pronoun information associating the historical noun references with pronoun number and gender information~~preference~~;

means for comparing ~~a~~ said recognized pronoun ~~reference~~ to ~~at least one of~~ said associated pronoun information; ~~preferences;and~~

means for selecting one of said noun references of said historical listing as a function of said comparison between said recognized pronoun ~~reference~~ and ~~at least one of~~ said associated pronoun information~~preferences.~~; and

means for updating said pronoun information as a function of a successful selection of one of said noun references.

7.   (Original) An apparatus according to claim 6 further comprising means for determining an associated pronoun preference as a function of historical usage of a pronoun with respect to the noun reference.

8.   (Original) An apparatus according to claim 7 wherein said historical listing includes a count of correct usage events of a given pronoun with respect to a given noun reference.

9.   (Currently Amended) An apparatus according to claim 6 wherein said noun reference is selected based upon a match of said recognized pronoun ~~reference~~ with ~~at least one of~~ said associated pronoun ~~preferences~~ information.

10.   (Currently Amended) An apparatus according to claim 6 wherein said means for comparing is configured to compare each recognized pronoun ~~reference~~ to said pronoun information associated with said historical noun references ~~is compared to at least one of said associated pronoun preferences~~ in chronological order from most recent historical noun reference to least recent historical noun ~~of the noun's~~ references ~~in said historical listing~~.

11.   (Currently Amended) A method of interpreting a pronoun ~~reference~~ in a voice user interface comprising ~~the steps of~~:

A)   recognizing a user utterance as containing a recognized pronoun ~~reference~~;

~~B)   associating a historical listing of at least one noun reference with an associated pronoun preference;~~

~~C~~B)   comparing said recognized pronoun ~~reference~~ to ~~at least one of said associated~~ pronoun <u>information associating the historical noun references with pronoun number and gender information;</u> ~~preferences; and~~

~~D~~C)   selecting a record from a database corresponding to one <u>of</u> said <u>historical noun reference<u>s</u></u> ~~of said historical listing~~ as a function of said comparison between said recognized pronoun ~~reference~~ and <u>said</u> ~~at least one of said associated~~ pronoun <u>information; and</u> ~~preferences.~~

<u>D)   updating said pronoun information as a function of a successful selection of said record.</u>

12.   (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 11 wherein ~~in step~~ ~~B~~<u>D</u>), the <u>record is</u> ~~associated~~<u>selected</u> ~~pronoun preference is determined~~ as a function of historical usage of a pronoun with respect to <u>each of</u> the noun reference<u>s</u>.

13   (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 12 wherein said historical usage includes ~~maintaining~~ a count of correct usage events of a given pronoun with respect to a given noun reference.

14.　(Currently Amended) A method according to claim 11 wherein ~~step C~~B) includes comparing said recognized pronoun ~~reference~~ to said ~~at least one of said~~ ~~associated~~ pronoun information ~~preferences~~ in chronological order from most recent to least recent.

15.　(Currently Amended) A method according to claim 11 further comprising ~~the step of~~:

E)　placing a telephone call to a telephone number in said selected record of said database.

16.　(Currently Amended) A method according to claim 11 further comprising ~~the step of~~:

~~E~~F)　sending an electronic message to an address in said selected record of said database.

17.　(Currently Amended) An apparatus for interpreting a pronoun ~~reference~~ in a voice user interface comprising:

a recognizer adapted ~~for~~ to recogniz~~ing~~e a user input as containing a recognized pronoun ~~reference~~;

a historical listing of ~~at least one~~ noun reference_s ~~with an~~ and associated pronoun information associating the historical noun references with pronoun number and gender information ~~preference~~;

means for comparing a said recognized pronoun ~~reference~~ to ~~at least one of~~ said

~~associated~~ pronoun information; ~~preferences; and~~

means for selecting a record from a database corresponding to one of said

historical noun references ~~of said historical listing~~ as a function of said comparison

between said recognized pronoun ~~reference~~ and ~~at least one of~~ said ~~associated~~ pronoun

information~~preferences.~~; and

means for updating said pronoun information as a function of a successful

selection of said historical noun reference.

18. (Currently Amended) An apparatus according to claim 17 further

comprising:

means for determining an associated pronoun preference as a function of

historical usage of a pronoun with respect to ~~the~~ said noun reference.

19. (Original) An apparatus according to claim 18 wherein said historical

usage includes a count of correct usage events of a given pronoun with respect to a given

noun reference.

20. (Currently Amended) An apparatus according to claim 17 wherein said

means for comparing is configured to compare each recognized pronoun ~~reference~~ to said

pronoun information associated with said historical noun references ~~is compared to at~~

~~least one of said associated pronoun preferences~~ in chronological order from most recent

historical noun reference to least recent historical noun reference.

21. (Original) An apparatus according to claim 17 further comprising:

means for placing a telephone call to a telephone number in said selected record

of said database.

22. (Original) An apparatus according to claim 17 further comprising:

means for sending an electronic message to an address in said selected record of said

database.

23. (Currently Amended) A method of establishing a pronoun ~~preference~~

information related to a noun identifier in a voice user interface database including a user,

the method comprising: ~~the steps of:~~

A) ~~establishing~~ providing a ~~at least one~~ pronoun ~~preference~~ information

database field associated with a pronoun and ~~in a pronoun database~~ corresponding to a

reference noun identifier ~~in a reference database~~;

B) searching for historical information indicative of ~~a~~ use of said pronoun

related to said reference noun identifier ~~preference~~; and

C) assigning said pronoun ~~preference~~ information field a value ~~designation~~

~~indicative of a first pronoun designation~~ as a function of a response by the user.

24. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 23 wherein ~~step~~ B)

includes searching a database record corresponding to said reference noun identifier ~~in~~

~~said reference database~~.

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25.   (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 23 wherein ~~step~~ B)

includes searching a plurality of <u>database</u> records, ~~in said reference database,~~ having a

same or similar noun identifier as said reference noun identifier, for <u>pronoun</u> information

~~indicative of a pronoun preference~~.

26.   (Canceled)

27.   (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 23 wherein ~~step~~ A)

includes ~~establishing~~<u>providing</u> a masculine pronoun ~~preference~~<u>information</u> field and a

feminine pronoun ~~preference~~<u>information</u> field.

28.   (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 27 wherein said

masculine pronoun ~~preference~~<u>information field</u> is "him" and said feminine pronoun

~~preference~~<u>information field</u> is "her."

29.   (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 23 wherein ~~step~~ A)

includes ~~establishing~~<u>providing</u> a singular pronoun ~~preference~~<u>information</u> field and a

plural pronoun <u>information</u>~~preference~~ field.

30.   (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 29 wherein said

singular pronoun ~~preference~~<u>information field</u> is "it" and said plural pronoun ~~preference~~

<u>information field</u> is "them."

31.   (Currently Amended) A system for establishing a pronoun preference for ~~to~~ a noun identifier in a database including a pronoun preference field, the system ~~in a database~~ comprising:

a pronoun ~~preference~~ information database including at least one pronoun information ~~preference~~ field corresponding to a reference noun identifier in ~~a reference~~ said database;

means for searching said pronoun information database for historical information including number and gender information associated with the noun identifier, the historical information being indicative of a pronoun preference, the means for searching returns a pronoun preference result as a function of said search of said pronoun information database; and

means for assigning said pronoun preference field a ~~designation indicative of a first pronoun designation~~ value indicative of said pronoun preference result.

32.   (Currently Amended) A system according to claim 31 further comprising means for searching a record corresponding to said reference noun identifier in said ~~reference~~ database.

33.   (Currently Amended) A system according to claim 31 further comprising means for searching a plurality of records, in said ~~reference~~ database, having a same or similar noun identifier as said reference noun identifier for pronoun information ~~indicative of a pronoun preference~~.

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34.   (Currently Amended) A system according to claim 31 further comprising means for searching a plurality of records, in a default pronoun designation database, having a same or similar noun identifier as said reference noun identifier for <u>pronoun</u> information ~~indicative of a pronoun preference~~.

35.   (Currently Amended) A system according to claim 31 wherein said pronoun ~~preference~~ <u>information</u> database includes a masculine pronoun ~~preference~~ <u>information</u> field and a feminine pronoun ~~preference~~ <u>information</u> field.

36.   (Currently Amended) A system according to claim ~~31~~<u>35</u> wherein said masculine pronoun ~~preference~~ <u>information field</u> is "him" and said feminine pronoun ~~preference~~ <u>information field</u> is "her."

37.   (Currently Amended) A system according to claim 31 wherein said pronoun ~~reference~~ database includes a singular pronoun ~~preference~~ <u>information</u> field and a plural pronoun ~~preference~~ <u>information</u> field.

38.   (Currently amended) A system according to claim ~~31~~<u>37</u> wherein said singular pronoun ~~preference~~ <u>information field</u> is "it" and said plural pronoun ~~preference~~ <u>information field</u> is "them."

39.   (Currently Amended) A system providing for user interaction comprising:

a voice personal assistant adapted to presenting prompts to and receiving

responses from a user;

said voice personal assistant including a recognizer adapted for recognizing

responses that include pronouns, received from the user;

means for maintaining a historical list of noun references;

~~means for associating at least one associated pronoun preference with at least one~~

~~noun reference in said historical list;~~

means for comparing a recognized pronoun to ~~with at least one of said associated~~

pronoun information associated with historical noun references, the pronoun information

including pronoun number and gender information;

an application adapted for performing at least one function for said user;

means for selecting one of said historical noun references ~~of said historical listing~~

as a function of a comparison between a recognized pronoun with ~~at least one of~~ said

~~associated~~ pronoun information~~preferences~~; ~~and~~

utilizing a selected one of said noun references in performing a function of said

application~~.~~; and

means for updating said pronoun information as a function of a successful

selection of said historical noun reference.

40.   (Currently Amended) A system providing for user interaction comprising:

a voice personal assistant adapted to presenting prompts to and receiving

responses from a user;

said voice personal assistant including a recognizer adapted for recognizing

responses that include pronouns, received from the user;

a historical list of noun references;

a pronoun cross-reference associating ~~at least one associated~~ pronoun

information~~preference~~ with at least one noun reference in said historical list <u>the pronoun</u>

<u>information including pronoun number and gender information</u>;

a <u>first</u> subsystem adapted for selecting one of said noun references of said

historical listing as a function of a comparison between a recognized pronoun with ~~at~~

~~least one of said~~ associated pronoun <u>information</u> ~~preferences~~ in said pronoun cross-

reference;

an application adapted for performing at least one function for said user~~; and~~

utilizing a selected one of said noun references in performing a function of said

application~~.~~<u>; and</u>

<u>a second subsystem configured to update said pronoun information as a function</u>

<u>of a successful selection of said historical noun reference.</u>

41.   (New) The method of claim 23 wherein the response is a user utterance.